to use the X-Ray plant purchased for CGHS, Allahabad; and if not, what are the hurdles in getting the accommodation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): No suitable accommodation has been found so far to install the X-Ray Plant purchased for C.G.H.S., Allahabad, Efforts are still being made to locate suitable Government accommodation for installing the Plant.

Prevention against vaccine preventable diseases

1968. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about four million children die annually and an equal number of children are disabled due to vaccine preventable diseases;

(b) whether any steps have been taken by Government to save children from preventable diseases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the target of health for all would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The latest available estimates of child deaths from all causes in the age group of 0-4 years obtained from Sample Registration System (SRS) pertain to the year 1985 and indicate that 3.55 million children die every year.

(b) To reduce infant mortality and morbidity by vaccine preventable diseases, EPI was started in 1978. This programme has been accelerated since 1985 as Universal Immunisation Programme. Lately the programme has been given the Mission Status.

(c) Under the Immunisation Programme 3 doses of DPT, Polio and one dose of BCG and Measles Vaccine is given to all eligible children under 1 year age. Pregnant women are given two doses of TT to prevent neo-natal tetanus. The goal of this programme is to achieve the coverage of 85 per cent of infants and 100 per cent of pregnant women by 1990. It is hoped to achieve the targets of 87 and below 60 IMR by 1990 and 2000.

Marketing of Fluoride Tooth paste

1969. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the article which appeared in Indian Express dated the 24th July, 1988 under the caption "Fear of fluoride to the effect that the marketing of fluoride toothpaste in India is not only unnecessary and unethical but criminal also;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that Dr. A. K. Susheela of All India Institute of Medical Sciences has suggested for a ban on marketing and advertising of fluoride tooth-paste in the country; and

(d) if so, details thereof and Government's decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had appointed a Committee of Experts to examine all aspects of fluoride in tooth paste. Dr. A. K. Susheela of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi was also a member of this Committee. The Committee has submitted its report. Final decision is being taken in consultation with the Director General of Health Services.